

# THE MCGILL DAILY

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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1994

## Queen's cafeteria workers end strike

### Marriot employees accept proposal after six months of picketing

BY DARREN HART

OTTAWA (CUP) — "The chocolate milk was grey this morning, but, yeah, service probably will get better. It kinda has to," predicted Heather Eade, a first-year Queen's University student, commenting on the fact that full-time Marriot Food Services employees have returned to work.

Marriott, the food services company which supplies Queen's and McGill, had been battling with its employees at Queens' over the issue of a poor labour contract. For six months. Six months of poor service and picketing from early in the morning until late at night came to an end on October 22, after striking cafeteria workers voted 38-29 to accept Marriott's proposal.

"After six months, some of [the employees] just couldn't hold out financially any longer," said John Platt, president of the Canadian Union of Public Employees, Local 229. During the strike, employees received pay from the CUPE national office for picket duty. However, this was less than their normal wages.

The new contract includes a two per cent wage increase in each of the first two years. In the third year, Marriott will make a contribution to the pension plan that matches an employees' contribution, up to a maximum of two per cent of their wages.

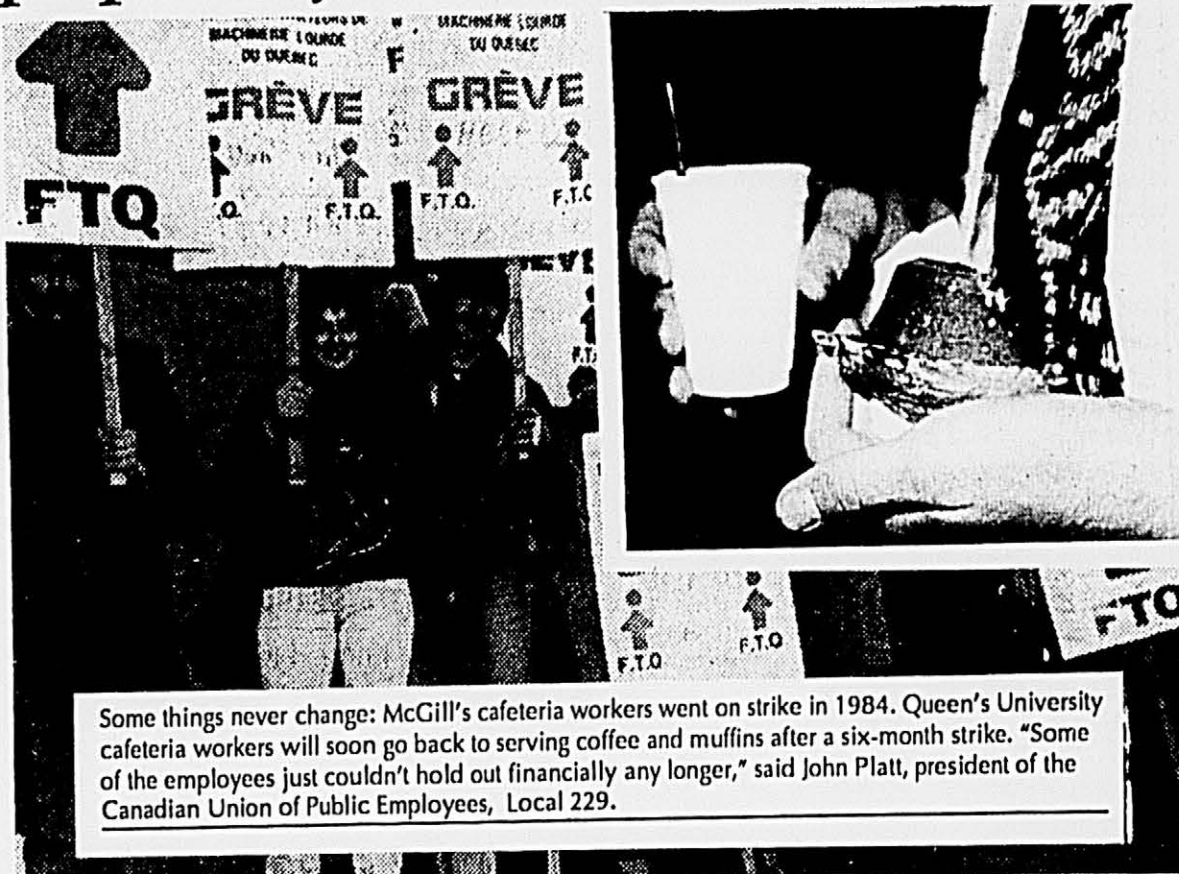
The contract is retroactive to May 1, 1993. As well, Marriott management signed a letter saying it does not intend to replace full-time employees with part-time employees, nor does it intend to shorten the 37.5-hour work week.

However, "should operational parameters change significantly, Marriott has retained the option to examine the labour force," noted Jim Fougere, director of Marriott management services.

This means that, if Queen's shuts down some services and does not need Marriott to do as much as they do now, Marriott has the option to reduce the work force as required. Long-term changes, such as a reduction in enrolment, or the closure of a residence building, could result in such layoffs.

In the short term, though, change is already taking place. The Main Campus Residence Council voted unanimously on October 24 to eliminate the extra security measures taken as a result of a food-poisoning threat, which was received on September 20.

Eade expressed relief that the warring conflict was now resolved. "There's a better atmosphere on campus. I'm not walking to class thinking about how to avoid the strikers, and I wasn't woken up this morning by them," she said. "I'd just like to feel like I was really getting my money's worth for my meal plan."



Some things never change: McGill's cafeteria workers went on strike in 1984. Queen's University cafeteria workers will soon go back to serving coffee and muffins after a six-month strike. "Some of the employees just couldn't hold out financially any longer," said John Platt, president of the Canadian Union of Public Employees, Local 229.

## Poverty, housing and Axworthy reforms

### Social justice issues dominate mayoral debate

BY RICHARD WEBB

On Tuesday night eight candidates in the municipal elections came closer not only to polling day, but also to their electorate, in an open-house debate at the Centre de Peltre on Cote des Neiges. For almost three hours, the hopefuls, drawn from four parties and four districts, faced questions first from Cote des Neiges Community Council members, and then from the floor.

There was no official agenda for the meeting, but attention was focussed almost exclusively on the inseparable issues of poverty and housing. In low-income districts like Cote des Neiges and Victoria, these issues seem set to dominate the election debates.

John Kinkhock, a coordinator for Multi-Caf, a local soup kitchen, set the tone of the debate early. He demanded that candidates reveal their feelings on the infamous Axworthy welfare reforms and their consequences for Montréal, which he called "the poverty capital of Canada".

Most candidates concurred with Marvin Rotrand, the incumbent Democratic Coalition-Ecology Montréal (DC-EM) councillor from Snowdon, who condemned the reforms as "a continuation of the neo-Conservative policies from the Mulroney era."

Bill Sloan, the DC-EM candidate in Darlington added, "the way we

got out of the 30s was by spending, not cutting — and that's how we have to do it now."

The only real dissension from this view came from the Montrealers' Party. While refusing to commit to any position on federal policy, Michele Potvin, the Montréalers' party candidate in Cote des Neiges, insisted that cutting taxes municipally would "help everybody out".

Her failure to respond directly to the question inspired Kinkhock to repeat his query in an attempt to elicit more direct answers from other candidates.

Next to grill the candidates was Alain Landry of the Tenants' Association. He directed his question at Abe Limonchik, the incumbent Montréal Citizens' Movement (MCM) councillor for Cote des Neiges. Landry criticised the allocation of housing inspectors in the city.

Under changes in the Quebec Housing Code made over a year ago, the inspectors can give daily fines for infractions by landlords. Landry told the candidates that this power was generally only enforced for commercial property, and that it needed to see more use in the residential sector.

Hubert Simard, the incumbent MCM councillor for Darlington, whose work in the renovation of housing in Barclay was commended, promised "a more productive,

efficient inspection service" via "increased computerization and coordination" within the service. He later told the audience that this would permit a maximum of 10 days to deal with complaints, with inspectors required to arrive within 24 hours in emergencies.

The political rhetoric was eclipsed somewhat during the latter half of the debate, as residents got a chance to quiz the candidates. "I have a problem with rats and my heating does not work," said one longtime resident of Cotes des Neiges, adding, "My balcony is also dangerous, so I called the city. No inspector was sent, only a letter to my landlord. Why was there no inspector? Why does it have to be so complicated?"

The Montrealers' Party solution to the problem is access. Michele Potvin claimed that her party would "help 20,000 people over the next four years to renovate their property". She also insisted that "by reducing taxes we can give landlords some money to at least do some repairs."

Marvin Rotrand was the first to denounce such fiscal measures as "Reaganite", noting that the early 80s did not see an improvement in social services in the US. He was not the only candidate to argue that "the ideas our colleagues to the Right seem to have about access just do not seem to work".

## Some refugees to get second chance

### Liberals promise lenience

BY STEPHANIE EVANS

People who were refused refugee status between February 1993 and May 1994 will receive a second chance to convince immigration officials that returning to their country of origin could mean putting their lives in danger.

In February 1993, the Mulroney government announced major changes to the immigration process that would make immigrating to Canada far more difficult. Stephan Reichold of the "Table de Concertation de Montréal pour les Réfugiés," said he believes these changes were made because the Conservative party was under pressure from the Reform party to reduce the number of immigrants into Canada. He further noted that

the Mulroney government considered the immigration laws, and specifically the post-determination risk assessment for refused refugees, too lenient.

According to Reichold, the Conservatives did not believe many refugees deserved the status granted to them. Therefore, they made several significant changes to the immigration application process, such as: giving immigration officers more decision-making power and training them to apply harsher standards when reviewing the cases of applicants who had previously been refused refugee status.

The application of these new standards resulted in less than 0.5 per cent of candidates being granted

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## Candidate in Jeanne-Mance Robert Keaton (Vision Montréal)

BY ROBIN PERELLE

With a lifetime of political experience under his belt, Robert Keaton of Vision Montréal has embraced yet another party's platform just in time for Montréal's municipal elections.

Until last year, Keaton served as president of Alliance Québec, an organization dedicated to promoting Anglophone interests in the province. From 1974-78, Keaton held a seat on Montréal's city council as a member of the Montréal Citizens' Movement (MCM).

He described his previous experience on council with pride. "[The MCM] reduced transportation fares for senior citizens. We launched a successful battle... and that's why seniors enjoy reduced fares today," he said.

If the elections on November 6 grant him another seat on council, Keaton would like to extend the transit fare reduction to students aged 18 years and over, he said.

While this initiative is apparently in the interests of students, it must be weighed against Keaton's desire to abolish the reserved bus lane on Park Avenue.

Park's reserved bus lane has been the subject of much controversy in the election debates. Although many students, and other environmentally friendly commuters, rely on the rapid bus service to get to school and work every day, merchants on the route say the parking restrictions have hurt their businesses.

Keaton at first seemed reluctant to disclose his position on the topic, but eventually admitted that he is opposed to maintaining Park's reserved bus lane. "That stretch saves the passengers seven minutes. I think the devastation of the area's commerce is too high a price to pay

for saving seven minutes on a bus," he said.

The Vision Montréal candidate went on to say that Montréal would be best served by building a tunnel to connect Jean Talon to the Ville Marie expressway.

"I think the solution is one that Choquette [the leader of the Montreallers' Party] alluded to earlier. We have a very incomplete transportation grid in the city," said Keaton, referring to the absence of a north-south "grid-link" to connect the Metropolitan and Ville Marie east-west autoroutes at either end of the city.

"So I think we should create a tunnel from Jean Talon to the Ville Marie expressway. Then... you could have an entirely different approach to Park Ave.... That would be the real, long-term solution," Keaton insisted.

### Students be wary

When questioned about the risk of condo conversion reducing the availability of affordable student apartments, and low-rent housing in general, Keaton was not very encouraging.

"I think it's very important to have sufficient housing for students. I'm aware of that need," he began. "But as a general policy we have to favour home ownership... it gives the city a more stable base," he noted.

Still, Keaton insisted that he is in touch with the needs of the community, having lived in the district with his family for many years.

On the issue of safety in the McGill ghetto, he suggested improving the street lighting and increasing police foot patrols. Like Dimitri Roussopoulos, the DC-EM's candidate in the Jeanne-Mance district, Keaton stressed the importance of raising awareness in order

to create a more caring community.

He admitted, however, that he was not aware of the Ghetto Safety Audit recently organized by McGill's Students' Society. He did express interest in getting involved in such "local group initiatives" if elected.

Keaton emphasized the need to improve the basic services in the district, and said we should start by cleaning up the streets, literally.

"Have you seen the alleys and the streets?" he asked. "It doesn't take a mastermind to see how dirty the city has become." He did not specify who would carry the brooms.

Instead Keaton turned to the parking problem plaguing Montréal's downtown core. "We need to come up with a plan for neighbourhood parking buildings," he said.

Keaton explained that implementing vertical parking lots downtown would decrease the number of cars actually parked on the street. He also noted that this plan would leave more room for bikes on the streets.

Keaton added that Vision Montréal, as part of their "full-scale garbage recycling programme", plans to raise the recycling rate, presently at three per cent, to 40 per cent in the next four years. When asked how his party hoped to accomplish this, and where the funds would come from, Keaton expressed confidence in party leader Pierre Bourque and his expert advisors.

"Bourque built the Botanical Garden into the second largest in the world... he has thirty years of experience and accomplishments," said Keaton of his boss.

"The critics didn't think the Biodome [another Bourque creation] would succeed either," Keaton added.

## Candidate in Peter McGill Van Petteway (Montreallers' Party)

BY AUBREY COHEN

A longtime executive in the travel business, Van Petteway, the Montreallers' Party candidate in the Peter McGill riding, is a McGill alumnus. His priorities focus on the economy to the exception of most other issues.

He listed his top concern as increased tourist revenue. He said the low occupancy rate in Montréal hotels is indicative of problems in this industry.

"[The hotels] should be having 74-75 per cent [occupancy] to make a profit," the candidate explained, adding, that "for every increase of one per cent [in occupancy], it translates to 1,000 jobs."

Petteway also said he wanted to focus the current initiative to revitalize St. Catherine street on those areas of the street which he thought actu-

ally need it. "The unfortunate thing is, [the initiative] starts at Berri and ends at University," he noted.

The member of the Montreallers' Party mentioned the homeless problem as a concern of his, saying, "[The homeless have] a detrimental effect on the ambiance of downtown." Petteway also spoke in favour of holding monthly citizens' forums and making sure "our streets are safe and clean."

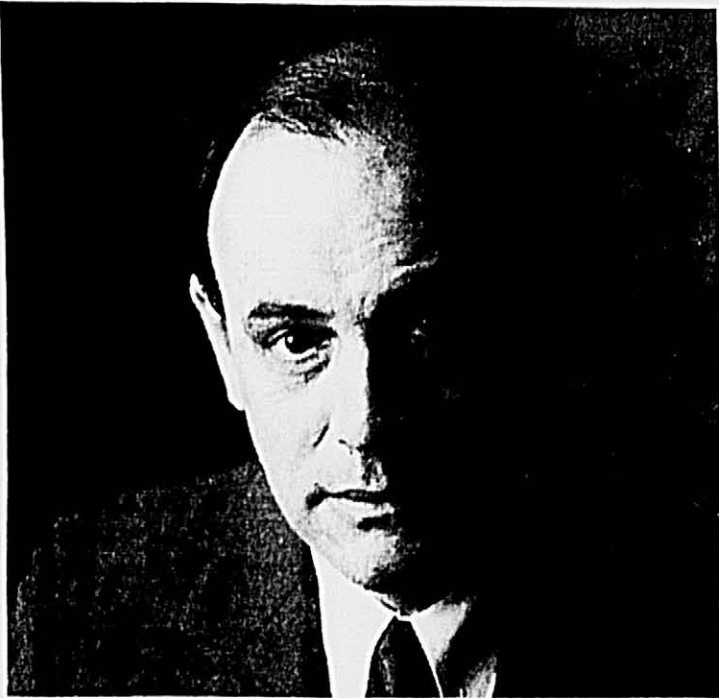
He said condo conversion is, "a mechanism that a lot of unfortunate people have been forced into," explaining that the city's tax structure makes owning a condo "a trap". Furthermore, Petteway stated that he did not see a need to protect low-rent housing from condo conversion, as "right now there is a glut of apartments."

Asked whether he would tackle the problem of bringing recycling

pickup to high-rise apartment buildings and commercial enterprises, the candidate admitted, "I don't have the answer... the environmental issue is one which I'm not totally up on."

Continuing in this vein, Petteway intimated that he felt the issues of reserved bike paths and bus lanes, like recycling, came under the rubric of "environmental" concerns. "I think we should be concentrating our energy on getting the economy going again." He added that environmental concerns would "fall into place" after economic issues were dealt with.

Petteway conceded that, when Montreallers' Party mayoral candidate Jérôme Choquette makes statements about abolishing reserved bike paths and bus lanes, "It makes my job much harder."



### McGill Students

Now that mid-terms are over and you've survived, consider the following:

Some parties have good ideas, but will have no chance to implement them (e.g. D.C.E.M.).

Some parties have simply run out of ideas (e.g. M.C.M.).

Vision Montreal has *both* good ideas and a good chance of implementing them.

- Good Ideas About the Environment
- Safety and Cleanliness of Our Streets
- Reduced Transit Fares for University Students
- An Effective Recycling Program, and Many More...
- Keaton Is a Professor & Community Leader
- He Understands Student Problems

On Sunday, November 6th,

Vote **ROBERT KEATON**, Vision Montreal Candidate for City Council in Jeanne Mance (281-1412) and Pierre Bourque for Mayor.

Authorisé et payé par Serge M. Flehr, agent officiel du Parti Vision Montréal, 1630, rue Berri, Bureau 3, Montréal, Québec, H2L 4E6.

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# Election profiles

## Candidate in Jeanne-Mance Michel Prescott (Independent)

BY RICHARD WEBB

Michel Prescott has been the municipal councillor for Jeanne-Mance district since 1982. — first with the Montréal Citizens' Movement (MCM), then (since 1992) as an independent.

Explaining his break with the MCM two years ago, Prescott said, "[Mayor Doré] lost touch with the people." Prescott said he sees grass-roots support as one of the most important components of his campaign for re-election. As a resident for 20 years on the Plateau, he is familiar with much of his Montréal electorate. The real gap in this rapport, he noted, is with the relatively transient student population. Consequently, he expressed a willingness to work hard to woo their vote.

Prescott listed safety as a big priority of his, both in the Ghetto and on the Plateau. He added that his main drive is to introduce foot and bicycle patrols, especially at night in the Ghetto.

"Police are accustomed to their cars, but it means they miss much of what they are looking

for. They are too easily visible and face impaired hearing and vision compared to a bicycle-patrol officer, who is also faster and more maneuverable," the incumbent explained.

Prescott cited his work in Caré St Louis, on Prince Arthur, as proof that these aims can be realised. "The park was once a place where the marginal met," claimed the councillor, "but in recent years it has become more problematic. Drug dealing and illegal drinking has made residents uneasy about crossing the park at night."

Since 1991, under pressure from Prescott, each summer has seen a three-week period of intensive police foot patrols. This pressure was escalated this year through bi-weekly re-evaluations of the park by police.

"The police do not lack funds to organise these foot-patrols; they simply need to become more efficient. Obviously a bike patrol is cheaper to operate than a motorised one, and in this case more effective," said Prescott, citing the recent Malouf Report on police



performance as evidence to support his convictions.

Prescott's apparent desire to improve safety in the city also manifests itself in an enthusiasm to limit the number of new bars in the district, particularly on St. Laurent. "Sure, bars are good for the economy, and we need a place to have fun, but an excess of bars tends to lead to increased vandal-

ism, noise and break-ins," he commented.

Although he said he enjoys drinking and playing pool, he stressed the need for a balance between entertainment and consideration for residents, especially the elderly or those with young children. "We can have too much of a good thing," he explained with a grin.

Limiting bars also ties into Prescott's stated desire to clean up his district and encourage recycling. "The bars on St. Laurent have attracted a lot of fast-food restaurants, causing an overflow of garbage which is not recycled."

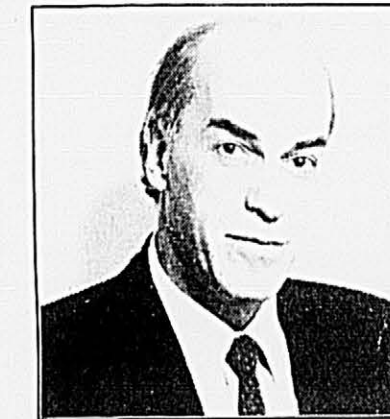
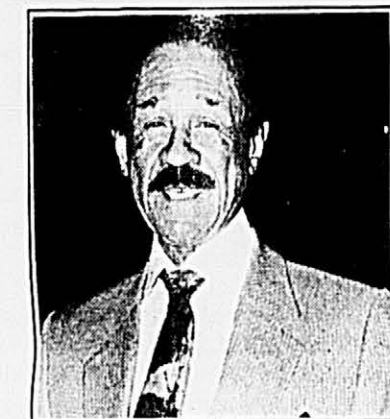
Prescott described a clear need for "incentives open to all local businesses which would encourage more recycling. People just won't do it otherwise." He has a pilot project ready to administer should he be re-elected which, he claimed, would "at worst pay for itself."

Prescott's frustration with the MCM is evident on environmental matters. "I campaigned for a new green recycling box to be situated on University Ave., but the

Executive Committee rejected the proposal on the grounds that too many Montréalers using the street for transit would take advantage of the box, leaving it overflowing," he complained. "There is an optimal level of recycling activity in this city from the perspective of political expediency, and the MCM clearly seems to believe it has already attained it."

He expressed quiet optimism about his prospects for re-election. He observed that the only danger facing him is that he might lose votes to Dimitri Rousopoulos, the Democratic Coalition-Ecology Montréal (DC-EM) candidate. He predicted this would likely strengthen the prospects of former Alliance Quebec leader, Robert Keaton. He speculated that the election of Keaton "is probably the last thing DC-EM voters would want."

Responding to critics who accuse him of being overly interventionist, on the issue of bars amongst others, Prescott rationalized, "Free markets are often good for economies, but my job is to mobilise people and raise the quality of life in Jeanne-Mance." Continued Prescott, "These issues are, in turn, the most conducive to prosperity. The laissez-faire approach is not always the most appropriate for urban planning."



Some candidates: Nicholas Landré (top), Van Petteway (middle), Michel Prescott (bottom).

## Candidate in Jeanne-Mance Nicolas Landré (Montréalers' Party)

BY ROBIN PERELLE

Nicolas Landré, a 26 year-old lawyer from Jérôme Choquette's Montréalers' Party, said he hopes to represent Montréal's new generation in the upcoming municipal elections on November 6.

"The reason that Mr. Choquette chose me as a candidate is because he was sure I had the experience, and because I'm from the new generation," said Landré.

"Mr. Keaton [the Vision Montréal candidate in the Jeanne-Mance district] is now 54 years old and Mr. Prescott [the independent incumbent] is 47 years old. They've had their chance. I think it's time for a change," he asserted.

"I believe we can do it better and more efficiently," added the young challenger.

Landré described the district as a good mix between New York's Greenwich Village and Paris' Quartier Latin. In keeping with Choquette's financial focus, Landré said he would like to capitalize on the area's cultural diversity, and hopefully attract more tourists in the process.

"This area is the economic pulse of Montréal," beamed Landré, with apparent pride. "It's the real people that live here," he added.

Landré would particularly like to

capitalize on the already thriving Portuguese community. He said he plans to foster a "Portuguese Village", between Mont Royal Avenue and Roy Street, that would be similar to Montréal's Little Italy.

"This would be a way to recognize this community that has given so much to Montréal in the past 50 years," he said. "It would also be good for tourism," he continued.

On the subject of safety in the Jeanne-Mance district, Landré said he would like to see more support for Walk Safe, either in the form of municipal subsidies or added foot patrols.

"More security in the ghetto is a must," Landré emphasized. "Walk Safe should have been an initiative of the city. I'm proud that McGill students did this, but the city has to take more interest," Landré said.

Despite his ambitious and expensive plans, Landré insisted that the new municipal government will drastically cut its spending.

"We're not going to cut into the city's essential services. We're just going to be realistic," said the Montréalers' Party candidate.

Pressed for specific areas that will be targeted for budget slashes, Landré chose the para-municipals, which are the costly crown corporations on the municipal level. He also said that many civil servants

will probably face pay cuts.

"Right now Doré's friends get too much money... dog catchers are getting paid \$60,000 per year. The city is not in a position to keep spending so much," Landré said.

Montréal's budget presently hovers near two million dollars annually. Landré said his party will try to cut the budget down to \$1.4 million per year. He insisted that this can be done simply by "cutting the fat".

"We're even cutting our own salaries by 10 per cent," he added.

"It's time for a renewal and Mr. Choquette is the man to lead the change," Landré said.

But what about bus lanes and affordable housing?

"I don't think Mr. Choquette wants to keep the reserved bus lanes," said Landré hesitantly. As for his own stance, Landré said it is too soon to properly evaluate the impact of reserved bus lanes on streets like Park Avenue.

As for bike paths, Landré said he does favour them, but would like to "make them more efficient". He suggested shifting the bike paths to wider streets where cyclists would be better "accommodated".

"We want to stimulate alternate modes of transportation, but we still have winter eight months per

year... so we'll never be able to stop cars from entering Montréal," Landré explained.

The Montréalers' Party wants to encourage people to bring their cars downtown because, it says, cars will revitalize business interests in the area.

Landré said that many people, especially those who live in outlying regions on the island, will not shop downtown unless they can come by car. He suggested implementing some kind of entrance fee to the city, but would not be more specific.

"We can't just take care of the environment. We have to take care of the economy as well," Landré noted.

With regard to the threat of condo conversion, Landré did not seem too alarmed. "We want to promote access to owning your own property," he said.

He suggested giving potential home-owners enticing deals on the old duplexes in the McGill Ghetto.

Some have criticised such deals because students, who cannot afford to buy a house, would have to look even harder for affordable accommodations.

Confronted with this reality, Landré suggested that students could just rent from the new home-owners. He didn't seem to be joking.



"It is true that replacing federal cash transfers would put upward pressure on tuition fees. This may be a necessary price to pay..."

— *Liberal Party's Green Book, pg 63*

Do you still want to be paying for your tuition when you are 64?

This is a call to action to stop the government targetting education as a way to pay off the debt.

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Please fill out and drop off at this address:

The McGill Daily  
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Montréal, PQ

## LETTERS

### Fag hags of the world unite...

To the Daily,

Well, it's about bloody time! I would just like to comment briefly on Juliana Hodgson's article ["Demystifying the fag hag", Mon. Oct 31], which portrayed with humour her position in the gay subculture. I would just like to add that not all "fag hags" thrive solely on the gay social scene. Perhaps we just happen to appreciate the humour, sensitivity and courage with which a gay friend confronts life's trials as well as the rare ability to empathize with a woman's plight minus any ulterior motives. I could also relate to occasionally feeling alienated while assisting gay functions (sic), even if I'm there on the invitation of friends. It was validating to see that I'm not the only fruitfully buzzing around here!

Tickle Vicious, U2 Arts

### ...Or not

To the Daily,

This is in response to the "fag hag" article written by Juliana Hodgson. I was a bit disturbed by your trivialization of the life of gay men. You posited your experience as a 'hag' ("the friend of gay men") as universal, incorrectly implying that all gay men like to "shop", "sing Broadway musicals", act as "partners in fashion crime", and most importantly, go clubbing. You are right,

these are complex relationships.

You may be going to clubs "to have a good time, no more, no less", but there are other very serious issues (eg: police brutality, AIDS, sexism) that your attitude obscures. Also, please don't confuse your awkwardness at gay clubs with the ostracism imposed on gays by society as a whole, or with the very serious threat of homophobic violence that gays face daily.

Alex Olson, U3

### Hammas not Palestine

To the Daily,

'Scattered body parts', is what I woke up to as my TV alarm turned it on. I am a Palestinian and a strong believer in the peace process. The brutal killing of 22 Israelis last week is an act that I want to express my condemnation for.

Hammas is an extremist group that in no way I consider Palestinian. I say that because while I was on a visit this summer to my birth place, Jerusalem, the Palestinians there were hungry for peace. Hammas is a minority group not representative of the Palestinian people. On the contrary, it is working against them by delaying the peace process.

In response to a letter that was written to the Daily, appearing in the issue of October 24. The writer claims that no map in the world will Palestine be found referring to that region, that no such thing as Palestine exists or ever did.

## COMMENT

### Student press protest against liberal social reforms

If students haven't read the Lloyd Axworthy report on social policy reform there are a few things they should know.

- The paper outlines a government plan to replace the current Student Loan System with a federally funded loan scheme, whereby students would pay for their university education after they graduate.
- The paper targets the social security net — which includes low cost education and unemployment benefits — as a major drain on the nation's economy.

The paper fails to mention the following:

- Under the new scheme tuition fees could go up to as much as \$40,000 for Canadian students. Even the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada, the national organization of university administrations, has arrived at this figure. This means that students could be saddled with a life time debt for their education.
- It does not mention who would administer the repayment of the debt.
- The proposal would essentially absolve the federal government of its responsibility to pay for the education of Canadians.
- Lloyd Axworthy did not mention any government plans to cut the deficit in other areas, like defense of taxing business. Canadian businesses currently owe the federal government \$30 billion in uncollected taxes.

The Liberal government is trying to place the responsibility for economic problems onto the shoulders of the most vulnerable members of this society. Several Ontario and Québec papers in the Canadian University Press do not want to let them get away with this.

Join CUP and the many student organizations and individuals across the country in sending a clear message to the government about our concerns. Fill out the coupon which accompanies this article and drop it marked envelope in the Daily office. The President of CUP, along with several member papers, will present the coupons to the office of the Human resources Minister, Lloyd Axworthy, on November 21.

Sign one. Get a friend to sign one. Do not allow the government to shut us out of discussions about our own future.

Deadline for coupon submissions is Tuesday, November 15. For more information call the Daily at 398-6784 and ask for Melanie or Debbie.

## HYDE PARK

### The Truth of the Matter

An Opinion Submitted by Zeid Salah

During the past weeks there have been several attempts at nullifying the existence of a 'Palestine'. To set the record straight, I suggest to any one seeking the truth of the matter to go looking beyond a modern political map and refer to history books. Doing so, they would notice that the land area in question was known as 'Palestina' to the Romans who conquered it in 63 BC. It was known as 'Palestine' to the Crusaders and 'Filasteen' during its Islamic conquest from 636 AD until WWI, when the British took over from the Ottomans. It was only in 1948 that a state of Israel was created 'OVER' the land of Palestine. The U.N. partitioned Palestine into two states; Jewish and Arab. But due to military strength and land confiscation, the fixed territorial borders of Israel exceed by far the land area specified to it by the U.N.

The 'Arab State' part of the partition plan that has not already been included into Israel, is presently under military occupation and has been since 1967. So the Palestinian people who faced an 'ethnic cleansing' in the pre-1948 Palestine, the refugees of the 1967 war, the 2 million Palestinians living under occupation in the West Bank and Gaza strip, and the (est.) 5 million Palestinians living abroad are all proof that there is a Palestine.

The fact that Palestine is not on a map is simply because Israel has ignored hundreds of U.N. security council resolutions issued since 1948, demanding Israel's retreat to the borders specified in the 1948 Partition Plan, as well as resolutions issued since 1967 calling for Israel's withdrawal from the West Bank, Gaza Strip, the Golan Heights, and South Lebanon. Therefore since the United Nations itself has referred to it in its resolutions, the reference to Palestine is neither misleading nor incorrect, but is perfectly legitimate.

In regard to the peace process, the PLO's recognition of Israel's sovereignty was an act of desperation as explained by Edward Said (Daily Oct. 26). Thus the fact that the words 'occupied territory' and 'sovereignty' do not appear in the Declaration of Principles does not wipe out the reality of the occupation. Since 1987 alone, the Israeli forces in the occupied territories have been responsible for 1,387 deaths, 130,472 injuries requiring hospitalization, 2,533 house demolitions/sealings and 116,918 acres of land confiscated (Washington Report, Sept. 1994). Therefore, after what the Palestinians have been through, it would be a crime against humanity to deny the existence of Palestine — as much as it is a crime to deny the occurrence of the Holocaust!

## ...LETTERS

All I have to say to you is that you gave totally identified with Hammas, you are an extremist yourself, and I am disgusted to know that there are such attitudes even here in our McGill community. Before 1948, that region was precisely known as Palestine. Get your facts straight.

I had started writing this letter even before coming across that letter. I, as a

Palestinian, stand against such acts of violence and want to extend my condolences to the Jewish community of McGill. There is no room for the minds and acts of extremists of both sides.

Ed. Note: BNC Patel, your letter is about 100 words too long! Come on down to the Daily office and fix it up so we can print it please.

## PLEASE NOTE!

The beautiful photo on the cover of our recent Lesbian, Bisexual and Gay Special Issue was a handpainted antique which was graciously loaned by:

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H2X 2V4  
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THE MCGILL DAILY



# Cruising the Queer Internet

## The Queer Resources Directory

THE ELECTRONIC "Information Highway" is here, and traffic is increasing daily as more and more information commutes from coast to coast and around the world at 57,000 bytes per second. The "Internet", (the common name for the vast system of inter-connected computer networks spanning the globe), has become increasingly accessible to everyday people.

Anyone with a computer and a modem, (a piece of hardware that lets your computer send and receive information over common telephone lines), can dial in and "surf the net" to explore thousands of electronic nooks and crannies, and to download information on everything from classical music to nasal hair.

The electronic rooms on the 'Net are created and maintained by everyday people without specific professional ties to the Internet. These people merely possess enough interest in a particular topic or issue to spend the time learning how to set up and maintain their own personal electronic library.

The free and open nature of the Internet makes it perfectly suited to act as an electronic backbone for grass-roots movements which have traditionally had difficulty staying afloat through the expensive techniques of the conventional media. In "Crashing the System," an article appearing in the June/July, 1993 issue of *Out* magazine, Michelangelo Signorile forecasted a future in which members of the Queer community around the country and around the world could assemble in electronic, 'virtual' meeting places, using modern information technology.

"Your video display terminal is a battleground. Your weapon is a modem. Your ammunition, electronic mail. On computer bulletin-board services, you rally the troops. You drop in on several 'electronic cafés,' where dozens of Queers exchange news, information, and instructions ... Press another button and you receive your customized electronic newspaper. All the news about gay issues and your other favorite topics from gay and mainstream newspapers around the country and the world is downloaded onto your screen. You punch in a code and get your own personalized AIDS update, complete with current information on drug research and drug trials."

Signorile's description of the future was not that far off the mark. Hidden among the many conventional as well as obscure lanes of today's "Information Highway" lies an electronic roadway paved with pink concrete and painted with rainbow-colored lane markers. A queer lane of the information highway exists. Like any other section of our society, part of the Internet is gay.

Interested in a list of mainstream movies with same-sex content? How about a weekly list of TV shows with gay, lesbian, other sexual minority, and gay/straight AIDS themes? An "Out List" listing literally hundreds of Out famous and semi-famous queers? GLAAD (Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation) newsletters? What about a list of openly Queer elected and appointed officials in the U.S.? This is a small sample of the information files you can find in the "Queer Resources Directory" (QRD), an electronic library containing news clippings, political contact information, newsletters, essays, images, and megabytes of other information of interest to the Queer community.

Originally established in 1991 as an electronic archive for Queer Nation, the QRD now receives over 100,000 accesses per month from net surfers around the world. In March, 1994 the all volunteer staff of the QRD formed their mission statement, which mandates their existence as "an electronic research library specifically dedicated to sexual minorities - groups which have traditionally been labelled as 'Queer' and systematically discriminated against."

## The Electronic News stand

In a corner of the Internet containing electronic versions of mainstream magazines like *Maclean's*, you can find electronic archives of national queer publications like *Out* magazine and *10 Percent* magazine. These libraries usually contain the full text of major articles from the most current issue as well as archives of past issues. You can access the Electronic Newsstand using gopher at [gopher.Internet.com](http://gopher.Internet.com).

## HIV/AIDS Information at the NIH

The National Institute of Health in the U.S. runs an information server containing a vast amount of information about HIV and AIDS. Topics include testing and diagnosis, treatment options, centres for disease control statistics (updated daily), and information about AIDS-related organizations. You can connect to the NIH info server using gopher at [odie.niaid.nih.gov](http://odie.niaid.nih.gov).

## Campus Resources

Universities were among the first institutions linked electronically by early versions of the Internet - so

Information highway paved in pink

by paul gribble

## Accessing the QRD

There are many ways to access the QRD, each with its own advantages. All computer accounts at McGill should allow you to access the QRD using e-mail, FTP, and Gopher.

- **E-mail** — To access the QRD via e-mail, send a message containing only the word "help" on a line by itself to: [ftpmail@vector.casti.com](mailto:ftpmail@vector.casti.com). The QRD's automatic mailer will send you a response detailing the commands you can use to navigate the QRD using e-mail.

- **FTP** — To access the QRD using the "File Transfer Protocol" (FTP) type the following command once you've logged on to your computer account: `ftp vector.casti.com`. Log in as "anonymous" and at the password prompt, enter your email address. Then enter: `cd /pub/QRD`. From there you can use the following commands to navigate the QRD:

```
cd <dir> enters the specified directory
dir displays a listing of the current directory
get <file> downloads the specified file to your computer account
```

```
cd .. exits the current directory
quit exit the QRD
```

- **Gopher** — Gopher clients are programs that make navigating through file systems like the QRD easier and more intuitive. To access the QRD using a gopher client, type the following command once you've logged on to your computer account: `gopher vector.casti.com`. You will then be connected to the machine that the QRD resides on. From the menu on your screen select "Queer Resources" and you will enter the QRD.

## For those without access to the Internet

Because there are many people who don't have Internet access, there are local computer "Bulletin Board Systems" which have agreed to provide all the information in the QRD. To access these systems simply call one of the following telephone numbers using your modem:

Outright (510) 568-9461  
The Underground BBS (908) 262-9666

it's only natural that the vast majority of queer Internet sites originate from queer campus groups in the United States and Canada. In Canada, the Simon Fraser University Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Association and the University of Waterloo Gay and Lesbian Liberation of Waterloo both operate information servers containing information about local and national Queer news, events, and organizations.

In the United States, there are many more campus information servers containing information aimed at Queer 'net surfers, such as Gay and Lesbian Studies course outlines, Safer Sex Guides, and even newsletters from the International Association of Gay Square Dance Clubs. For a comprehensive list of over 50 American and Canadian queer infoservers, gopher to [uclink.berkeley.edu](http://uclink.berkeley.edu) and look in the "/other gopher" and then the "/queer" directory.

## Usenet Discussion Groups

In addition to the permanent electronic resource libraries described above, there is a more dynamic area of the Internet called Usenet, which is home to a vast array of discussion groups. Participants read messages posted in these groups, and can respond within minutes with a message that is posted to the group for everyone to see. Although some discussion groups are accessible via electronic mail, most require a "newsreading" program. To read messages on Usenet discussion groups, type "rn" from your McGill computer account. For a list of Queer-related Usenet discussion groups, gopher to [uclink.berkeley.edu](http://uclink.berkeley.edu) and look in the "/other gopher", then "/queer", then "/LGB-themed USENET Newsgroups" directory.

## Internet Relay Chat

For an even more dynamic experience, try Internet Relay Chat (IRC). IRC is designed to allow real-time discussion within "channels" where topics are set in advance, but can change as the participants wish. Participation is immediate. Within seconds of entering a question, comment or response, participants from around the world who are logged onto the channel you're talking on see what you've just typed. Queer related IRC channels include #gayteen, #gaysex, #bisex, and #gay-help. To access the IRC system just type "irc" once you've logged on to your computer account. For a list of all channels type /list. To join a discussion channel (for example #gayhelp), type /join #gayhelp. To exit the IRC system type /quit.



# events

- Come and join a fun brainstorming session to help find ideas for designing posters for an on-campus poster activism awareness campaign to tackle racism, sexism, homophobia, religious discrimination, ableism... Mon. Nov. 7 rm. 302 Shatner.
- SSMU council meeting, Thursday, Nov. 3, 6pm. Bo9/10, Shatner. Issues to be discussed: Long distance telephone plan, CASA Exam Test Bank, Motion on provisional membership for FEUQ
- **Player's Theatre** presents the highly reputed musical *Cabaret*, opening Nov. 15 until Nov. 26. Tickets on sale now. Info. 398-6813
- Meet the Candidates for Mayor in the upcoming municipal election. The Montréal Region Chapter of Alliance Québec is sponsoring a debate with the Mayoral candidates on Nov. 3 at 7:30pm at the Intercontinental Hotel, 360 St. Antoine St. Everyone Welcome. Call Kathy for more info. at 875-2771
- NDP-McGill is proud to announce that Svend Robinson, member of Parliament for Burnaby Kingsway,

- will be speaking at McGill Nov. 8 at 11:30 in Lea. 26. All welcome.
- Diwali Dinner on Friday, Nov. 4 by McGill India Canada Students Association (ICSA) and Concordia SAY-AC at Diocesan 3473 University. Tickets available at Shatner Nov. 2 and Lea. Nov. 3. or contact teh exs. Limited tickets available.
- Book launching: *Budapest Sultes of Bryan Sentes and The Brueghel Desk of Darlus Snleekus*. Sat. Nov. 5 at the Bistro, 4040 St. Laurent. 8pm. \$2 admission includes complementary copy of *Nowadays* by DPB.
- Protest Rally, Thursday Nov. 3rd at the Islamic Republic of Iran Ottawa Embassy. Send the Sponsors of Terror a Message! Buses will be leaving at 10:30am from Hillel House, 3460 Stanley, and Cavendish Mall-Canadian Tire Entrance. Reserve your seat asap (free). Call 845-9171
- Mount Sinai Hospital is recruiting english and french volunteer animators for the 1994-95 School Health Education Program. This program is offered to students from grades 3-7 in all schools in the Montréal and surrounding areas. It deals with

sound respiratory healthy dn the negative effects of smoking and pollution on that system. Training is provided for those who can commit themselves to a minimum of 4 presentations per month (2-half days). Call 369-2222 local 1331.

- **Concordia's Downtown Press** poetry reading series presents an evening of poetry with Richard Sommer. Sommer was recipient of the Academy of American Poets Prize in 1962, and has received degrees from the University of Minnesota and Harvard. Sommer is an Associate Professor at Concordia University where he teaches Literature and Creative Writing. He will be reading from his latest manuscript. Wed. NOV. 9 at 8pm in rm. H-762-123 of Concordia's Hull Building, 1445 De Maisonneuve W.
- **Unitarian Church of Montréal** presents "An Alternative Health night" held in Channing Hall, 3415 Simpson (1 block E. of Guy and Sherbrooke). An opportunity for people to meet with alternative health care professionals and to have their blood pres-

## WOOPS!

The Daily neglected to run the end of our timeline of Lesbian, Bisexual and Gay Activism that we started in Monday's special issue. At right is the column that was left out.

sure checks. Friday, Nov. 4 8pm. All welcome. 935-1522.

• **Volunteers need at the CLSC NDG Montréal O. Homecare Program.** Info. 485-1677 or 485-7811, ext. 3030

• **Volunteers needed to accompany the driver of a van to bring groceries to the elderly.** We require 2 hours of your time, from 10am-12pm. Call David 485-1677

• On Nov. 11-13, the Québec Wing of the Progressive Conservative Party of Canada will hold its General Assembly at the Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza (intersection of Sherbrooke and Durocher). Registration begins 5pm. Fri, Nov. 11. Info. 875-5577 or 982-0634

• On Mon. Nov. 7, PC McGill presents Senator Gérard Beaudoin, legal scholar and constitutional expert. Arts Council rm. 4-5pm. The topic is the future of Québec.

"LBG ACTIVISM" BY ANUP GROWAL  
CONTINUED FROM MONDAY'S ISSUE

**Oct 1994** — The president of La Table de consultation, Gloria Escomal, announces her intention to try the government in the Superior Court, over discriminatory government laws against the queer community.

**Oct 1994** — Douglas Buckley-Couvrette, the administrator of ACT-UP Montréal and a member of La Table de consultation des gaies du Grand Montréal is running in the Peter-McGill constituency for the Democratic Coalition-Ecology Montréal.

## AND FINALLY, THE QUEER MOVEMENT AT MCGILL

**1972** — The LBG movement at McGill begins with the formation of Gay McGill. The *McGill Daily* has its first LBG issue and half the *Daily* staff resigns.

**1980s** — The anti-gay "Heterosexual McGill" forms to counter Gay McGill. The group eventually dies out.

**1990** — Gay McGill helps to get an "affirmative action" clause put in the SSMU constitution.

**1990** — Gay McGill changes its name to Gays and Lesbians of McGill (GALOM).

**1990** — Students protest the fact that McGill Off-Campus Housing does not allow sexual preference to be advertised on their housing lists. The rule is revoked.

**1991** — GALOM changes its name to Lesbians, Bisexuals and Gays of McGill (LBGM) in order to be more all-encompassing.

**1991** — LBGM campaigns to stop the Armed Forces, the RCMP and other establishments that discriminate against homosexuals from recruiting on campus. The SSMU adopts this policy.

**1992** — LBGM succeeds in getting an apology from PC McGill's newsletter *Bluenotes* for publishing student Erica Nordheim's anti-gay article.

**1992** — LBGM's bisexual group forms. **Oct 1993** — LBGM campaigns to have the Red Cross Blood Drive cancelled because it discriminates against Gays. The SSMU agrees to cancel the drive and pressure the Red Cross to change its questionnaire so that it is HIV aware and not homophobic. The issue receives international recognition.

**March 1994** — After the Students' Society rescinds its original motion and decides to hold a referendum on repealing the cancellation of the Blood Drive, LBGM challenges the constitutionality of the referendum. LBGM loses and the referendum is held. Students vote to allow the Red Cross back.

**1994** — The Womyn's Group of LBGM forms.

**Today** — Members of LBGM are pushing for an LBGM subcommittee of the SSMU Equity Committee. LBGM members are involved in Group Action, an anti-discriminatory body which is looking at discrimination in the curriculum.

Thanks to: Douglas Buckley-Couvrette, Benoit at the Lesbian and Gay Community Centre, and Chris Carter at LBGM.

## Liberals promise to be more lenient than predecessors on refugee claims

continued from page 1

ed refugee status on humanitarian grounds after a second hearing of their case. According to Reichold, even candidates in whose country of origin there was a civil war were being deported. These findings were severely criticized by numerous non-governmental organisations.

In May 1994, Sergio Marchi, the new Liberal immigration minister, announced that the strict measures imposed by the Conservative government had denied applicants a fair chance to remain in Canada on humanitarian grounds.

Therefore, all refugee applicants who were turned down between February 1993 and May 1994 will be given a reasonable chance to prove how being deported could mean placing them in a life-threatening situation. Beginning this week, Immigration officials will study each person's case individually, placing much importance on

the situation of their country of origin. The actual wording of the revision laws has not changed, but it's interpretation has become far more lenient.

Immigration officials will send out 1,800 forms to refused refugee claimants. Reichold claimed that the form is very difficult to fill in without legal assistance, particularly for someone whose mother-tongue is neither English nor French. Legal Aid does not cover the cost of having a lawyer help to fill out the form, which averages between \$400 and \$500. Seeing as most refugee claimants cannot afford this fee, they will rely heavily on assistance from grass-roots organisations.

Reichold commented that the more lenient standards enforced by Sergio Marchi and the Liberal government have improved communication between the Immigration department and non-governmental organisations, thereby facilitating their role in the immigration process.

## DAILY PHOTOGRAPHERS

Our dearly beloved photo editor Derek Fung has recently left this land of the Daily for better happenings.

All past, present and would-be Daily photographers are asked to help us in our time of need.

Reception next Monday, November 8, Room B-03 Union Building, 6pm.



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## Renamo reenters elections

The threat to successful Mozambique elections posed by a last-minute boycott by the Mozambican National Resistance (Renamo), appears to have been removed. Under intense international pressure, Renamo Presidential candidate Afonso Dhlakama reentered the race on October 31.

Mozambicans signaled their desire for peaceful elections by voting in large numbers in all parts of the country in the first scheduled day of national elections, despite a boycott call only hours before the polls opened.

A spokesman for Renamo, which is backed by South Africa, had accused the Mozambican government, the independent National Electoral Commission and the United Nations of plotting to cheat them of victory. The incident was the latest in a long series of maneuvers by which Dhlakama has apparently hoped to extract new concessions, including a share of power to be guaranteed before the election. The Mozambican government has been under intense pressure from the United States and other outside powers to make such an agreement. It is reported that the pressure con-

tinues, this time to announce a government of national unity even before the votes are counted.

Source: *New York Transfer News Collective*

## Puerto Rican election results on Internet

The Puerto Rican State Election Board and the University of Puerto Rico have agreed for the transmission of the November 6, 1994 referendum results via internet. This is the second occasion Puerto Rican electoral data will be transmitted and available for data base reference and collection. The Referendum date is November 6 1994.

For more information contact:

Jose Alvarez

[J\_Alvarez@upr1.upr.clu.edu]

## Dr. Israel Shahak on the Israel-Jordan peace accord

When Dr. Israel Shahak was in New York City in October 1994, he made two points about the peace treaty with Jordan. On WBAI radio on October 17th, Shahak claimed

that before returning the disputed land to Jordan, the Israelis, using heavy, earth-moving equipment, first removed the top soil. [According to press reports, the disputed land involved 125 sq. miles.]

Shahak said that the land in question previously produced crops and that with the removal of the topsoil it had been made a desert. Later, off the air, in response to a reporter's question, Shahak said that the topsoil removal was reported in English in the Jerusalem Post and also in the Hebrew Press.

Also, on the same WBAI radio program, Shahak claimed that the 50 million cubic meters a year of water that Israel was returning to Jordan as a result of the peace treaty, represented 5% of the water that Israel was stealing from Jordan.

Source: *WBAI Radio and New York Transfer News Collective*

## Cuban refugees escape Panama camps

Some 21 Cuban refugees escaped Thursday from "safe haven" camps operated by the United

States in Panama, officials said. Two groups of refugees jumped the barbed-wire fences that surround the camps and ran away into the nearby jungle, U.S. military officials in Panama said.

The officials said two of the refugees were captured and another two apparently returned on their own to the camps, which sit on U.S. military land near the Panama Canal.

"We have notified Panama's police and we are searching for them in the jungle," a U.S. military official told Reuters. The escapes reflect growing discontent at the Panama camps, where the United States hold nearly 9,000 Cuban boat people who fled their nation this summer.

U.S. officials said a group of eight refugees had begun a hunger strike at one of the camps to protest U.S. policy that refugees must return to Cuba to apply for legal migration to the United States.

Earlier this month, two refugees escaped and were later captured by Panamanian police in a city about 120 miles from the camps.

Source: *Reuters and New York Transfer News Collective*

## Mississippi police maintain murders of gay men not a hate crime

Two gay men were shot to death Oct. 27, in Laurel, Miss., a town of under 19,000 people. The sheriff says he doesn't think the murders were based on bias.

Local officials like the sheriff are themselves guilty of covering up anti-gay violence in Jones County.

Friends Joseph Shoemaker and Robert Walters had left a party in Laurel that night to buy cigarettes. Two women collecting bottles discovered their bodies the next morning on an overgrown railroad embankment just outside the city limits.

Each man had been shot execution-style: once in the head at point-blank range.

"A vowed homosexuals?" blinked Sheriff Maurice Hooks. "Didn't have nothing to do with it."

Source: *Worker's World Service*

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### 1 - HOUSING

**Furnished Room** with adjoining bathroom in renovated condo, on Pine Ave. W., 10 minute walk to McGill. Meals included \$395 per month. Joyce Besso H:281-6407 O:485-5994.

**Occupational Therapy Student** female needs place for January. If interested in a roommate for a month please call 284-5728.

**Looking for a 2 1/2 or large dble rm** to sublet in Plateau Nov. 1 to Jan. 31. Responsible, quiet 933-2250 around 350 max. all inclus.

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### 3 - HELP WANTED

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**Researchers at McGill** are looking for students 18-30 yrs. old, right-handed and have spoken English from birth. Testing will take 20-70 min. Volunteers will be compensated. Call 398-4924.

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### 14 - NOTICES

**McGill Nightline** is an information, listening and referral service. Open 6pm-3am. 398-6246.

**LBM discussion grps.** Wed. 5:30 Bi-Group Shatner 423. Thurs. 7PM women's grp. Shatner 423. Fri. coming-out 5:30 & General 7PM, 3521 University.



# Moving beyond the lesbian/bi divide

by Tamara Vukov

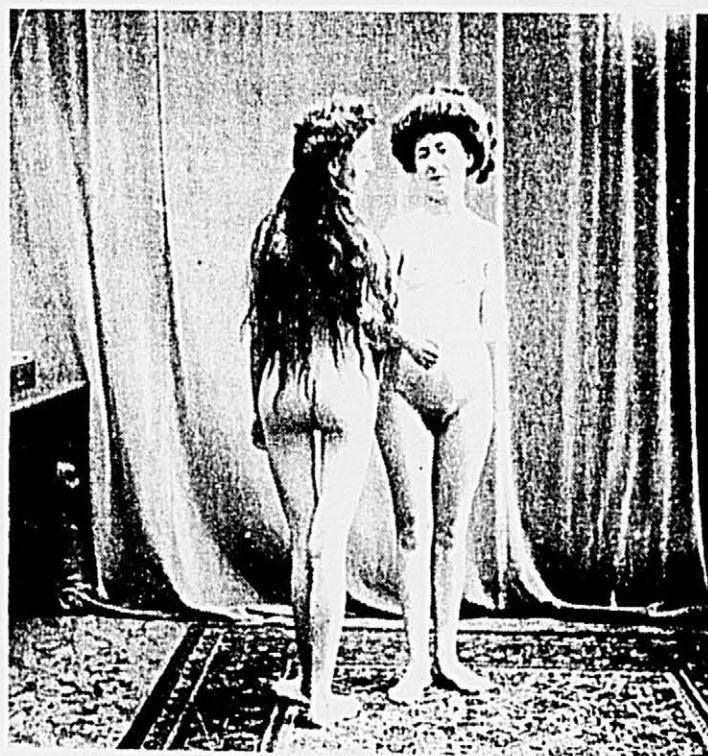


PHOTO COURTESY OF ANTOINETTE HUBERT

What do women who identify as lesbian and/or bisexual share in our struggles, identities, and practices and where do we differ or diverge? What are our deepest sources of potential conflict and where lies the ground for mutual solidarity, respect, and sweet loving? And why do these questions continue to be hotly contested, often as though we belong to two discrete, polarized groups, or one embattled, confused not-yet group. These dichotomies are problematic for women who share common political ground on issues of race, class, ethnicity, and sexual practices.

Part of the problem has to do with how deeply personal these issues run, how at times they cut to the very core of our own identities, and how these labels seem to take on the power to threaten or erase the very identities we have fought so hard to live out. And they cut both ways.

As a bisexual woman, the prospect of public (as opposed to personal) lesbian-bi dialogue always brings out certain fears and dreads. There

finer lesbian voice her fears of invisibility and erasure by the bisexual label. If too many women call themselves bisexual, who will be left to stand with lesbians? I am pulled in different directions. I want to acknowledge and engage her fears, but I am afraid of erasing myself in the process.

Even though I don't view bisexuality as a drain on lesbian existence, I can't help but feel that her concerns are historically understandable and legitimate. Yet the expression of such concerns on the part of some lesbians has become taboo and is used as evidence of dyke intolerance for many bisexual activists.

So how did we get to the point where our respective labels could be interpreted as though they were being wielded as de facto threats against each other anyhow?

To be sure, the parameters of the 'les-bi divide' are defined by much more than just our fears. Passions, politics, solidarities, betrayals, oppressions, privileges, strengths and insecurities have played into these debates in ways that we are only be-

in power of the biphobia coming from straight versus lesbian/gay communities.

I'm not out to shit on a movement that was an epiphany for me and has allowed me to make sense of my own sexuality on a collective level. Yet I find that emergent bisexual feminist movements have at times contributed to the current impasse by reinforcing a view of bisexuality

our own fate and survival to be bound up and intertwined with the fate and survival of strong lesbian communities of resistance. But I am disturbed with the way affirmations of my own bisexuality are sometimes taken by other non-lesbian women as cues to start bemoaning the injustices and rigidness of various lesbian communities.

Bisexuality is coming to be equated with an inherent critique of lesbian/gay identity. While the politics of queerness has changed many of us and will need to change even more to overcome the current intolerances dealt to transgender queers, I think it's time to move beyond pre-occupations of trashing the lesbian communities as THE sources of bisexual oppression and start contextualizing our struggles within the terms of larger heterosexist power structures.

Sure it gets tiresome to have to constantly respond to the "heterosexual privilege of bisexuals" accusation, but to remain stuck in this mode as a response is to close off the possibility of dialogue on just the delicate sorts of issues and concerns that we need to address if we are to start working together more effectively.

And we do need to remember that many of our points of conflict do cut both ways. Just as I've often been told that I'm either really a lesbian or on my way back to heteroland, some bisexual women feel threatened by lesbian women with past or present relationships with men who do not define themselves as bisexual.

On the other hand, many self-defined lesbians and gay men have responded to my bisexuality with vulnerable and/or defensive confessions of opposite sex relationships combined with declarations that they are not bisexual. As if my one aim in discussing my bisexuality was to proselytize them to the bisexual ranks, despite the fact that I neither solicited their confessions nor did I try to recruit them as bisexual converts.

While all this cross- and counter-labeling may seem to become a kind of silly semantic game

**"If you are free, you are not predictable, and you are not controllable. To my mind, that is the keenly positive, politicizing significance of bisexual affirmation: To insist upon complexity." — June Jordan**

are fears that may have more to do with the ways in which I'm still staking out the implications of my sexuality. There are also fears that I will be pegged off as a traitor to the lesbian cause — an uncommitted fence-sitter trying to have it both ways, who will revert to straight privilege when the going gets tough — a het-at-heart or confused closet case who doesn't get the real issues.

I have fears that I will be received as yet another one of those grrrls hopping on the latest easy trend in an attempt to fulfill my pose of post-modern fluidity or groovy bohemian hetero-hipness.

Some of these may sound like internalized versions of the typical biphobic stereotypes that we are constantly trying to dispel in those Bisexuality 101 lectures we never seem able to move beyond. But there are other fears as well: The dread of polarized spectacles, dykes and bi-women having it out in cat-fights tailored to the viewing pleasure of straight audiences who can either take side to score points, or sit back and enjoy the action now that the heat is off them.

And what is the most complex of these fears? It is the moment of impasse when the les/bi lines get drawn. — like when I hear a self-de-

fining to disentangle. But if we're ever going to move beyond this divide (as some of us are) and start using our differences more creatively to jointly fight the powers that be, we're going to have to create spaces where we can address these fears, and other feelings we may not be too proud of, without policing each other.

It also may mean some painful recastings of the terms on which we've established our own movements. The concern expressed by a dyke friend of mine that "If all these women want to be this other thing, who's going to be left standing with me" may be rooted in more than just biphobia and lesbian resistance.

Bisexuality sometimes gets cast as a groovy '90s thing that is inherently more fluid, more happening, and more open to the transgression of gender boundaries than those limited, repressive, and passé monosexual lesbians and gays only interested in the containment of gender boundaries. I find this as problematic as a liberal bisexual standpoint that gushes on about the glory of 'choice', as if other sexualities weren't about choice, as if the only choice was between men and women. It is crucial to acknowledge gender/racial power differences as well as the differences

as something inherently inimical to lesbian identity.

Much of this has to do with the historical circumstances from which the "new" bisexual wave emerged. If you look at an anthology like "Closer to Home: Bisexuality & Feminism" (Elizabeth Reba Weise, ed.), many (though by no means all) of the women who have been at the forefront staking out the terms of emergent bisexual identities have gone through similar paths in relation to lesbian communities.

Many of these women have followed journeys from identifying as lesbians, to involvement with men as well as women, to ultimate ostracism and the loss of much of their closest friends in the lesbian community. These are real experiences involving complex emotions as well as biphobic beliefs equating bisexuality with betrayal to homosexuality.

Yet, because such experiences have been so formative to many newer bisexual movements, some of the legitimate anger that bisexual women have felt as a result of lesbian biphobia has at times devolved into a fixation on the intolerances of dyke communities and an overemphasis on dyke acceptance.

Some of this is understandable given how intensely many of us feel

(at which point someone usually suggests the irrelevance of labels), I think it important to work through the nuances if we're ever to move beyond our deadlocks. And while there are real differences between (as well as among) us, we need to stop using those differences as accusations against each other and interrogate them instead. For example, I do think that bisexual and lesbian women have different relationships to heterosexual privilege (as does each of us individually based on race, class, and degrees of physical ability), but how do we creatively use these differences to support each other in our fight to end this and other forms of domination?

We also have to keep a grip on the ways in which male sexuality is used to define and contain the limits of all women's sexualities. The Atlanta Center for Disease Control's earliest classification system of sexual orientations at the beginning of the AIDS epidemic illustrates this strikingly: men were defined as gay if they had even a single episode of same-sex contact in the past fifteen years, women as lesbians if they had exclusively same-sex contact in fifteen years (i.e. a woman who slept with a man once in fifteen years and women the rest of the time would be classified as straight). While this has a lot to do with homophobic AIDS classification systems, it also speaks to the weight male sexuality carries in this culture in ways that render all women's sexualities invisible.

We have to keep this gender-oppression in mind when dealing with issues of biphobia from lesbian communities as well. White lesbian writer Marilyn Murphy's statement that bisexual women are the only truly heterosexual women because they choose to go back to men after knowing what it is to be with women operates on much the same principal of the male supremacist erasure of women's sexuality. Why isn't it that we as bisexual women are refusing to let our woman-love be erased by whatever contact we do choose to have with men rather than going BACK to men AFTER being with women? By the same token, why should a minor relationship with a man erase a self-defined lesbian's identity?

There is such a rich array of issues to explore once the walls start to come down, issues of shared and divergent pleasures, pains, privileges, oppressions, communities. Much of it is still scary and uncertain territory, yet the possibilities that open up when we move beyond are sweet. As the Black, bisexual poet and political activist June Jordan puts it: "If you are free, you are not predictable, and you are not controllable. To my mind, that is the keenly positive, politicizing significance of bisexual affirmation: To insist upon complexity."